

Empire Coin Company *presents . . .*

INTERESTING ENGLISH COINS

MAUNDY SETS OF ENGLAND

The Good Friday edition of London's Evening Standard and St. James Gazette stated: "A number of Americans approached the happy old men and women and made tempting offers for the Maundy money. One old woman absolutely refused to sell her collection, but it is feared that some have succumbed to the inducements offered them." This extract might well have appeared in last year's newspaper or a similar story may appear this year. This account, however, appeared in 1906--sixty years ago. It is surprising to many seasoned dealers and experienced collectors that Americans have always been a part of the restless crowd waiting outside the chapel for the Maundy Ceremony to end so that they might secure Maundy sets from the proud recipients.



THE DISTRIBUTION OF HIS MAJESTY'S MAUNDY, BY THE SUBALMONEER *in the Chapel Royal, WHITEHALL.*

*From the Original Drawing made by the Rev. D. RICHARD KAYE, F.R.A.S. See his *History of the MAUNDY*, 1773.*

Early engraving depicting the Maundy Ceremony c.1773

Even in the early days of this century, Americans were known for paying high prices for Maundy coins. They often outbid the Englishmen, possibly because they felt they would never again see the sets or have a chance to buy them whereas the Englishman could attend the Ceremony year after year. The American tourist had extra money for souvenirs and a Maundy set was something different that could be shown with pride to neighbors and relatives back home. The going price for Maundy coins in those days was four or five times face value which was really not a large sum

of money. The purses or bags were sometimes sold for a shilling or two, although more often than not, they were kept by the recipients as the only reminder of when they stood before the Sovereign.

English newspapers have always enjoyed making note of the "fabulous" prices paid for Maundy coins, especially by American tourists. This year will be no exception, as the demand for these sets should be quite keen. It may well be assumed that hundreds of prospective buyers will be waiting outside the chosen cathedral or chapel



Above: Queen Elizabeth II and attendants; Maundy Ceremony, Chelmsford, Essex, 1963.

Above right: Leather bag containing Maundy coins distributed in 1932 by King George V.

Right: Ticket to 1958 Maundy Ceremony.



LANTERN

WESTMINSTER ABBEY
DISTRIBUTION OF THE ROYAL MAUNDY



ON THURSDAY, APRIL 3rd, 1958,
AT 11.30 a.m.

ADMIT ONE PERSON BY THE GREAT WEST DOOR
NO ADMITTANCE
AFTER 11.15 a.m.

ALAN C. DON, Dean
PTO

where the Ceremony is conducted. This group will be made up of serious collectors, curious tourists, part-time dealers and perhaps agents for professional dealers, each hoping to find recipients who will part with their alms at a "reasonable" price. The popularity of Maundy coins has grown so during the past few years that it is unlikely that any participants will not be familiar with the desirability and demand for the sets. This should be especially evident once they leave the service and see the crowd waiting.

Maundy coins have been popular among collectors for many years, but only recently have collectors become cognizant of the true scarcity of these sets in relation to other numismatic material. The total number of sets struck for any one year is extremely small when compared to other proof issues in sets such as U. S. proof sets, Canadian proof-like sets and most world proof sets. During the past fifty years, with one exception, the mintage has remained between one and two thousand sets. The one exception was in 1937 when additional sets were struck for inclusion in the Coronation sets for His late Majesty King George the Sixth.

Maundy sets are often collected by types, each type representing and portraying a different Sovereign and period. This is an inexpensive method of obtaining representative specimens of English coins issued during the past four centuries as well as having accurate portraits of over a dozen Sovereigns. They are sometimes collected by date series representing the reigning years of a favorite king or queen. The current series



Maundy sets of Queen Anne (above) and George III (left). Coin illustrations enlarged.

The Maundy Ceremony is a service of the Church of England. This Ceremony is held on the Thursday before Easter or the day commonly called "Holy Thursday". Similar ceremonies are held in many other churches throughout the world. These services are conducted as a part of the Easter observance and based on the events following the Last Supper where Jesus took a towel and basin of water and proceeded to wash the feet of His disciples. Following this, He delivered His commandment or mandatum. The word "Maundy" is derived from mandatum. Early records indicate that some form of this ceremony has been conducted in England as early as the fifth century wherein selected aged and poor citizens received a meal and had their feet washed. The role of the Sovereign in the Ceremony did not come until many centuries later, and the Ceremony then became known as the Royal Maundy. Gifts of clothing or cloth, food and money were added to the service and often the Sovereign would personally wash the feet of the recipients. There was even a period when the Royal Gown was given to the most deserving female participant. This was a most difficult decision to make and not a practical gift. Queen Elizabeth the First changed this by giving a money gift of twenty shillings in lieu of the gown to all participants. This gift was in a red purse and set a precedent for future Ceremonies.

The number of recipients chosen is based on the age of the Sovereign. One man and one woman are chosen for each year of the Sovereign's age. Queen Elizabeth II will be thirty-nine years old when the 1965 Ceremony takes place. The prospective candidates are recommended from the district where the Ceremony is held. The qualifications of the candidates are evaluated and the Lord High Almoner makes the final decision. There is no definite place where the Ceremony is held although it is most often held at Westminster Abbey. Since 1953, when Queen Elizabeth II became Queen, the Ceremony has been held at Westminster Abbey every other year. If this pattern is continued the Ceremony will be held at some other cathedral or chapel this year.

At one time many years ago, clothing was given to the recipients but the anxiety of some of the women was so great that they forgot everything and proceeded to try the clothes for size, including the undergarments. This, of course, was somewhat disturbing in more ways than one and the clothing gift was discontinued. At a later period, woolen and linen cloth was given to the recipients. Most of these people had little money and could not afford to have the cloth made into clothing and eventually sold it for a fraction of its cost. Today, the gifts or alms consist only of money representing the original gifts of food or provisions, clothing and the gown.

Early Maundy money consisted only of silver pennies, the number of pennies being equal to the age of the Sovereign. The set, as we know it today, contains four coins: penny, twopenny, threepenny and fourpenny or groat. These sets of four silver coins were first struck during the reign of Charles II in the mid-sixteen hun-

dreds. The very first sets were hammered issues followed by undated milled sets. It is not known for certain if the early sets are actually Maundy sets, but they are generally regarded as such. The first dated set is 1670. A 1668 twopenny piece exists but this is usually thought of as a pattern for the 1670 issues. The sets of four coins have been issued continuously since 1822. Prior to this date they were issued intermittently and numerous "sets" contain less than four coins.

The Maundy coins are similar to the regular issues in that they bear the likeness of the reigning Sovereign on the obverse and contain similar wording. There have been periods when certain Maundy coins were exactly like the regular issues and it is impossible to tell them apart. This was especially true of the threepenny pieces prior to 1927. In 1927, the reverse of the silver threepence was changed and since that year the two types are easily distinguishable.

When the additional sets were needed for inclusion in the 1937 Coronation sets, the Royal Mint chose to make all Maundy coins of that year proofs. They have continued this practice until the present day. Most sets dated from 1837 through 1937 are found in uncirculated condition although some do appear with a prooflike surface. Sets dated before the reign of Victoria are usually found in circulated condition with only a few remaining in mint state.

Maundy coins have always been made of silver. They have the distinction of being the only English coins currently struck in this metal. England changed from silver to a composition of copper and nickel in 1947. She was in need of money to pay debts incurred during World War II and this silver was an ideal source especially since older coins could be withdrawn from circulation and melted.

One of the highlights of this century for Maundy participants was in 1932 when their beloved King George the Fifth personally handed each recipient his gifts. Although this practice was common in early Ceremonies, the personal distribution was discontinued in the late sixteen-hundreds and the Lord High Almoner made the distribution in the intervening years. Since 1932, the reigning Sovereign has made personal distributions on many occasions. Since 1953 Queen Elizabeth has missed only a couple of Ceremonies.

It is interesting to note that although only money is now given to the recipient, this money and its predetermined exact amount is based on the value of the original non-monetary gifts of many years ago. For instance, a recipient in the 1965 Ceremony will receive a sum of thirty shillings in lieu of provisions. These shillings represent: five loaves of bread, four pounds of beef, two salted codfish, two salted salmon, eighteen herring and eighteen salted herring. The men will receive a white purse with green strings containing forty-five shillings in lieu of clothing. This amount being equal to, according to old standards, the following: three ells of fine linen, three yards of woolen cloth of a russet color, a pair of shoes and a pair of stockings. The women will receive only thirty-five shillings in a green purse with white strings. These shillings represent a gown or dress with sleeves and, as early accounts state, "sundry other portions of female dress including stays". This difference in allowance for clothing and color of purse is the only distinction made between men and women. The allowance for the redemption of the Sovereign's gown is twenty-shillings, as noted previously, and this along with the thirty-shillings for provisions is given in a red purse with white strings. In addition to these two purses, a third will be given. This purse will be white and have red strings. It will contain three complete sets of Maundy coins plus several extra Maundy coins totaling thirty-nine pence. The long leather strings of the Maundy bag are usually tied with the strings of the red purse containing the allowances for provisions and gown. These two purses are given during the second part of the Ceremony, whereas the clothing allowance is given during the first portion. Maundy sets are not issued in boxes or cases although they are frequently

found today in plush cases of various sizes and shapes. These cases are of private manufacture and have no official status.

There will be seventy eight participants in the Ceremony this year. Each will receive three sets plus extras amounting to a total of approximately three hundred sets. The Royal Mint will probably strike around twelve hundred sets. These extra sets will be given to selected Mint employees and officials. Many of these extra sets will eventually fill the needs of collectors and undoubtedly many have already been spoken for. This discrepancy between the actual number of sets given to recipients and the total number struck often puzzles new collectors when comparing figures.

The participants for the forthcoming Maundy Ceremony will soon be chosen and undoubtedly there are many eager candidates. Attributes such as honesty and industriousness are part of the criteria used for selecting the participants. In earlier years, the requirements were often based on the citizen's previous contribution to the country's benefit such as the payment of taxes or other people employed by the candidate during his more prosperous years.

The Ceremony has been changed many times over the years. Its present form is much shorter in length than earlier services but it still remains one of the most traditional and revered ceremonies of old England. The study of these Ceremonies is interesting, colorful and provides an excellent background of English numismatics and British royalty.

April 15th, 1965, will be the most memorable day in the lives of many elderly subjects of the Crown as they become the center of attraction and stand before the Queen. Following the Ceremony, they will again become the center of attraction as dozens of people crowd around them and attempt to buy their treasured Maundy coins. Once the sets are sold, these elderly people will again be forgotten; a few, perchance, will keep the purses and at some distant time gaze upon them as a reminder of the day when they were "king".



1687 Maundy set, James II - 1828 Maundy set, George IV

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ENGLISH MAUNDY SETS...

Sets in the following listing from Charles II to George IV inclusive average Very Fine to Extremely Fine in grade. From Queen Victoria onward the conditions are listed individually.

Each set listed below contains four pieces, the silver penny, twopence, threepence and fourpence.

Many of the sets listed below are one-of-a-kind. Accordingly, alternate choices will be appreciated.

If you are building a type collection of Maundy sets, note our special type set offer at the end of the listing.

Maundy Sets of Charles II

First issues of Chas. II. Undated..	57.00
1672	72.50
1681	90.00
1683	46.00
1684	57.00

Maundy Sets of James II

1687	57.00
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Maundy Sets of Queen Anne

1710	135.00
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Maundy Sets of George II

1729	60.00
1731	60.00
1732	60.00
1739	45.00
1746	44.00

Maundy Sets of George III

1763	47.00
1780	47.00
1784	47.00
1786	47.00
1792	75.00
1795	42.00
1800	42.00
1817	47.00
1818	47.00
1820	47.00

Maundy Sets of George IV

1822	47.00
1823	47.00
1824	47.00
1825	47.00
1826	47.00
1827	47.00
1828	47.00
1829	47.00
1830	47.00

1831 Proof, from the sets of this
yr.....190.00

Maundy Sets of Queen Victoria

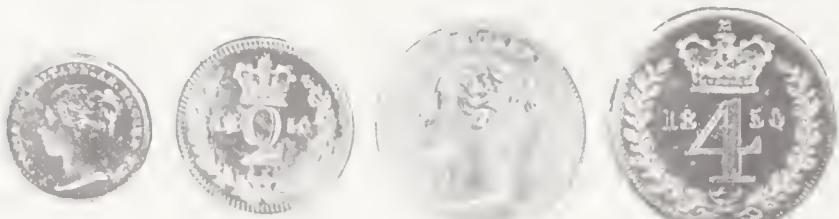
(Mintages of the sets from 1838 onward
are shown in parentheses)

1838-1887 Young Head Type

1838 (4, 158) EF \$27.00; Unc.....	55.00
1841 (2, 574) Unc.....	75.00

1843 (4, 158) EF \$27.00; Unc..... 55.00

1845 (4, 158) EF..... 27.00



1850 (4, 158) Unc. 55.00

1851 (4, 158) EF \$27.00; Unc..... 55.00

1853 (4, 158) Unc. 55.00

1854 (4, 158) Unc. 55.00

1855 (4, 158) Unc. 55.00

1856 (4, 158) EF \$27.00; Unc..... 55.00

1857 (4, 158) EF..... 27.00

1858 (4, 158) Unc. 55.00

1859 (4, 158) EF \$27.00; Unc..... 55.00

1860 (4, 158) Unc. 55.00

1862 (4, 158) Unc. 55.00

1863 (4, 158) EF..... 27.00

1864 (4, 158) Unc. 55.00

1865 (4, 158) Unc. 55.00

1867 (4, 158) Unc. 55.00

1868 (4, 158) Unc. 55.00

1870 (4, 488) Unc. 49.00

1871 (4, 488) Unc. 49.00

1872 (4, 328) Unc. 49.00

1873 (4, 162) EF \$26.00; Unc..... 49.00

1874 (4, 488) Unc. 49.00

1875 (4, 154) Unc. 52.00

1877 (4, 488) Unc. 49.00

1878 (4, 488) Unc. 49.00

1879 (4, 488) Unc. 49.00

1880 (4, 488) EF..... 26.00

1881 (4, 488) Unc. 49.00

1882 (4, 146) Unc. 49.00

1883 (4, 488) EF \$26.00; Unc..... 49.00

1884 (4, 488) Unc. 49.00

1885 (4, 488) EF \$26.00; Unc..... 49.00

1886 (4, 488) Unc. 49.00

1887 (4, 488) Unc. 48.00

1888-1892 Jubilee Type

1888 (4, 488) Unc. 75.00

1889 (4, 488) Unc. 75.00

1890 (4, 488) Unc. 75.00

1891 (4, 488) Unc. 75.00

1892 (4, 488) Unc. 75.00

1893-1901 Old Head Type

1893 (8, 976) Unc. 35.00

1894 (8, 976) Unc. 35.00

1895 (8, 877) Unc.	35.00
1896 (8, 476) Unc.	35.00
1897 (8, 976) Unc.	35.00
1898 (8, 976) Unc.	35.00
1899 (8, 976) Unc.	35.00
1900 (8, 976) Unc.	35.00
1901 (8, 978) Unc.	35.00

Maundy Sets of Edward VII

1902 (24, 099) Unc.	35.00
1903 (8, 976) Unc.	35.00
1904 (8, 876) Unc.	35.00
1905 (8, 976) Unc.	35.00
1906 (8, 800) Unc.	35.00
1907 (8, 760) Unc.	35.00
1908 (8, 760) Unc.	35.00
1909 (1, 983) Unc.	49.00
1910 (1, 440) Unc.	60.00

Maundy Sets of George V-First Type

1911-1927

1911 (7, 642) Unc.	55.00
1912 (1, 246) Unc.	60.00
1913 (1, 228) Unc.	60.00
1914 (982) Unc.	85.00
1915 (1, 293) Unc.	60.00
1916 (1, 128) Unc.	60.00
1917 (1, 237) Unc.	60.00
1918 (1, 375) Unc.	60.00
1919 (1, 258) Unc.	60.00
1920 (1, 399) Unc.	60.00
1921 (1, 386) Unc.	60.00
1922 (1, 373) Unc.	60.00
1925 (1, 438) Unc.	60.00
1926 (1, 504) Unc.	60.00
1927 (1, 647) Unc.	60.00

Maundy Sets of George V-Second Type

1928-1936

1929 (1, 761) Unc.	67.50
1930 (1, 724) Unc.	67.50
1931 (1, 759) Unc.	67.50
1932 (1, 835) Unc.	67.50
1933 (1, 872) Unc.	67.50
1934 (1, 887) Unc.	67.50

Maundy Sets of George VI-Type I

1937 (27, 727) Proof.....	60.00
1938 (1, 275) Proof.....	60.00
1939 (1, 234) Proof.....	60.00
1940 (1, 277) Proof.....	60.00
1941 (1, 253) Proof.....	60.00
1942 (1, 231) Proof.....	60.00
1943 (1, 239) Proof.....	60.00
1944 (1, 259) Proof.....	60.00
1945 (1, 355) Proof.....	60.00
1946 (1, 365) Proof.....	60.00
1947 (1, 375) Proof.....	60.00
1948 (1, 385) Proof.....	60.00

Maundy Sets of George VI-Type II

1949 (1, 395) Proof.....	75.00
1950 (1, 405) Proof.....	75.00
1951 (1, 468) Proof.....	75.00
1952 (1, 012) Proof.....	87.50

Maundy Sets of Queen Elizabeth II

1955 (1, 036) Proof.....	75.00
1957 (1, 094) Proof.....	75.00
1961 (1, 118) Proof.....	73.00
1962 (1, 125) Proof.....	73.00
1963 (1, 132) Proof.....	72.00



1964 (1, 138) Proof..... 72.00

SPECIAL MAUNDY TYPE SET OFFER... One Maundy set of each type from the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign to the present day. Contains one Uncirculated (or Proof, for sets 1937 and later) set of each of the following types: (1) Queen Victoria, Young Head type; (2) Queen Victoria, Jubilee type; (3) Queen Victoria, Old Head type; (4) Edward VII; (5) George V, first type; (6) George V, second type; (7) George VI, type I; (8) George VI, type II; (9) Queen Elizabeth II. These nine different sets, all choice, would sell separately for \$523.50 or more. We offer these type sets (dates of our choice) for \$495.00 each. Only a few type sets in stock, so order early.

Note: For \$1.25 each we can supply Capital brand plastic holders suitable for Maundy sets from 1838 to date. Each holder has four openings, one for each coin in the set. These attractive black holders highlight the coins beautifully.

ENGLISH PROOF SETS

The coinage of England includes a long and illustrious series of proof coins. Many of these were issued singly, others were issued together in sets.

In 1746, for instance, a silver proof set was struck which contained one specimen each of the various denominations: sixpence, shilling, halfcrown and crown.

In 1797 Matthew Boulton, co-owner of the famed Soho Mint, issued proof sets of his "cartwheel" designs. Each set contained the farthing, halfpenny, penny and two-pence. Most sets were struck in copper and issued in mandolin-shaped cases. A few sets were struck in silver and a few others were struck on planchets which were gilded before striking. It has been said that Boulton struck 1797 sets for several decades thereafter, often presenting them as "souvenirs" of the Soho Mint's workmanship and fine striking. The Soho Mint utilized steam-powered coining presses, an innovation which was not adopted by the United States Mint until 1836, many years later.



1826 Cased Specimen Set



William Wyon's classic Una and the Lion design



1927 Specimen Proof Set

The earliest-dated English proof set generally available today is the 1826. The phrase "generally available" is used loosely; probably not more than two or three sets per year appear on the market. The 1826 set includes all denominations struck for circulation in England that year plus the set of Maundy coinage plus the silver crown and the gold two pounds and five pounds. The latter three coins were struck especially for inclusion in the 1826 set; no additional pieces were distributed otherwise.

The 1826 sets were struck to illustrate new coinage designs. Coins of King George IV were issued beginning in 1820. The obverse designs by engraver Benedetto Pistrucci portrayed the king with a bloated and bedraggled appearance. In 1824 King George IV commanded Pistrucci to prepare a new obverse portrait to be copied from a flattering medal by Sir Francis Chantrey which pleased the king. Acting from motives of pride Pistrucci refused to copy another's work. Consequently another engraver, William Wyon, engraved the new portrait on the dies. By 1826 the design had been changed from the old to the new on all of the coinage denominations, hence the reason for issuing the 1826 proof set.

The next proof set is the 1831 portraying King William IV. Although there are a few rare patterns dated 1830, regular coinage of this monarch commenced in 1831. A number of special proof sets were prepared. Each set contained one coin of each denomination from the farthing through the two pound gold piece. One of the highlights of this year's coinage is the 1831 crown. Like the 1826, specimens were struck only for inclusion in the proof sets with the result that probably not more than one hundred crowns bearing this date are known today. A few 1831 crowns were struck in gold. Sometimes these are considered to be five pound gold pieces, although strictly speaking they are not such.



English proof coins from early proof sets: 1831 penny of William IV; 1797 Soho Mint "Cartwheel" twopence issued by Matthew Boulton; 1839 Queen Victoria halfpenny.

The first proof sets of Queen Victoria (coinage dated 1838-1901) were struck in 1839. This set, too, was a complete one... illustrating all denominations. Of particular beauty in this set is the famous Una and the Lion design on the reverse of the five pound piece. Connoisseurs consider this coin to be one of the most attractive in the English series, if not in the entire world.

During the reign of Queen Victoria other proof coins and sets were issued. Sets containing many coins were struck in 1853, 1887 and 1893. The 1887 set commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of Queen Victoria's reign on the throne of England. The 1893 illustrated the "old head" or "veiled head" designs first used that year. On other occasions proof coins were issued singly (as in the case of the 1877 farthing which was struck for museum purposes) or in small sets (as in the case of the 1881 bronze proof sets which illustrated the reverse design modifications of the farthing, halfpenny and penny).

The only proof set of King Edward VII (coins of his reign are dated 1902 to 1910) is the 1902 which was struck to illustrate the first Edwardian coin designs. These sets were issued in two forms, the "short" set which contained all silver issues plus the gold half sovereign and sovereign and the "long" set which contained those coins plus the large gold two pound and five pound pieces. The 1902 set is interesting inasmuch as the coins are in matte proof condition... utilizing the process which gives the surface of the coins a satin-like appearance. This process, first used at the Paris Mint, was intended to accentuate the design features by making the coin appear more like a medal than a coin. This process also was used by the Philadelphia Mint for certain proof coins beginning about 1909 and continuing for about a decade. The 1902 English set is the only set with the matte finish. Earlier and later sets have the "brilliant" mirror-like finish which seems to be more popular with collectors.

Proof sets of King George V were struck first in 1911. Sets of this year typified the new designs and included all silver and gold denominations. There was no crown in the 1911 set as no crowns of this reign were issued until 1927. 1911 sets were issued in a variety of forms... one with just the silver issues, a "short" set with all silver issues plus two gold coins and the "long" set with all four gold pieces in addition to the other coins.

In 1927 the reverse designs of the silver coins underwent sweeping revisions. These new designs provided the occasion for a 1927 proof set which contained the threepence, sixpence, shilling, florin, halfcrown and crown. Today the 1927 set is especially important as threepence, sixpence, halfcrowns and crowns of the new designs and dated 1927 are available only from the proof sets... no additional pieces were struck for circulation.

The next proof set issue was the 1937. In that year a bronze and silver proof set was struck to show the revised designs of the new monarch, King George VI. Not only were all of the designs changed, two new coins were added. The brass threepence,

first introduced in 1937, had a distinguishing 12-sided shape. It was several times heavier than the small silver threepence pieces which were also coined that year... and in subsequent years until 1944. For the first time the 1937 set contained two different shillings... one with the English reverse and one with the Scottish reverse.

In addition a limited number of separately cased 1937 gold proof sets were issued. Each set contained one specimen of each of the four gold coins; the half sovereign, sovereign, two pounds and five pounds.

In 1950 the Royal Mint announced that it would strike a limited number of sets in response to the demands of collectors. This marked a departure from the traditional reason for issuing sets upon the occasion of new designs or to commemorate special events. It was hoped by collectors everywhere that this would mark the beginning of a continuous series of English proof sets... much on the same order as the continuing series of United States proof sets which began in 1950. Unfortunately, however, 1950 was the first and the last time that sets were struck especially for numismatists.

The following year, 1951, saw the celebration of the Festival of Britain. To commemorate this occasion some 20,000 proof sets were struck and distributed. Many were sold directly to the public at the Royal Mint's exhibition on the fair grounds. Others were distributed via banks and coin dealers. The 1951 set contained a special commemorative crown. The reverse of the crown portrayed St. George slaying the dragon... a design first introduced over a century earlier on the 1817 gold sovereign designed by Pistrucci. Nearly two million of these crowns were sold separately in green or maroon cardboard boxes for sixpence (about 7¢) each above face value.

The most recent English proof set issue was in 1953. The coronation of youthful Queen Elizabeth II was an occasion which was celebrated far and wide throughout the British Commonwealth. 40,000 proof sets were struck to illustrate the new coinage designs, but even this relatively large number fell short of the demand and many collectors were disappointed. Elsewhere in the British Commonwealth 1953 proof sets portraying the Queen were issued by New Zealand, Canada and South Africa.

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Empire Coin Company, Inc. endeavors to maintain a comprehensive inventory of all English coins, including proof sets. However the demand for them is so great that the earlier issues are now only occasionally in stock. If you are interested in 1911 or earlier sets advise us of your needs and we will keep your name on file.

Even though the mintages of the later 1927-1953 sets are moderate (ranging from 15,030 1927 sets to 40,000 1953 sets) CHOICE sets are fairly difficult to obtain. During our frequent trips to England we always buy choice sets whenever offered at a reasonable price. Substandard or poor sets are always rejected, and are acquired only occasionally as part of entire collections. We discount these. Unfortunately, although many impaired sets are in dealers' and collectors' hands they are rarely advertised as being impaired.

Hence a given set may be advertised for, say, \$375.00 and another of the same date for \$275.00. Rather than being a bargain, the bargain-priced set is usually defective. This we know from rather extensive buying experience. In any collecting field it pays to know your dealer. The hobby of numismatics is no exception.

At the present time we can supply the following English proof sets. As our supply is limited we regret that we must limit any individual order to not more than three sets of any one date or to not more than three complete 1927-1953 collections.



1927 proof set. --- Choice set (not available singly). Substandard set-- \$295.00

1937 proof set

(bronze and silver) Choice set----- \$175.00 Substandard set-- 157.50

1950 proof set. --- Choice set----- 90.00 Substandard set-- 81.00

1951 proof set. --- Choice set----- 115.00 Substandard set-- 103.50

1953 proof set. --- Choice set----- 85.00 Substandard set-- 76.50

COMPLETE COLLECTION... one set each containing the various bronze and silver coins as issued in proof condition in 1927, 1937, 1950, 1951 and 1953. An excellent opportunity to acquire a collection of choice first-quality English proof sets comprising all issues of the past half century. \$795.00.

Complete collection as above, but with substandard sets. \$699.00

Note: All of the above proof sets listed singly and in collections are in the original presentation cases or boxes of issue. As with all purchases from Empire, your satisfaction is guaranteed.

A few notes concerning coins of England...

The English Maundy sets and English Proof sets listed in this publication represent an excellent opportunity to make an excellent beginning on either a beautiful display collection or a top-quality investment portfolio. All of these sets are genuinely rare numismatic items. The demand for them, both in England and throughout America, is continually growing. Whenever choice sets or other coins in the English series appear on the auction market new price records are set.

The market for English coins is largely untapped. This is in your favor as it is possible to acquire choice sets (such as those offered for sale here) at nominal prices; sets which have low mintages and are scarce and difficult to obtain. A few years from now the story will be entirely different. Today's purchase opportunities will be just fond recollections of the past...much like looking at U. S. coin prices of the "good old days" a decade or so ago.

If you are a collector of English coins you will find that the pieces offered here will meet your exacting requirements for quality and value. If you specialize in American coins, we recommend English coins as an interesting and most rewarding sideline.

The English coin market is a growing one. Prices have been continually advancing. For this reason, the prices for the coins offered here will remain in effect only for one month's time. Order early to avoid disappointment. As ALL sets are in limited supply and some (in the Maundy series) are one-of-a-kind, alternate choices will be appreciated. YOUR COMPLETE SATISFACTION IS GUARANTEED ON ALL ORDERS. IF YOU ARE NOT 100% PLEASED AN IMMEDIATE REFUND WILL BE GIVEN AS PER OUR USUAL POLICY. Our large and successful business has been built upon many years of giving fast service and excellent values to collectors, investors and museums in all parts of the world.

Sources for information and illustrations include: "The Royal Maundy" by E. E. Ratcliffe and Peter Wright; the 1951 Royal Mint Report; World Coins.

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